

OECD Health Statistics 2025

Definitions, Sources and Methods

Pharmacists licensed to practice

Pharmacists licensed to practice include practising and other (non-practising) pharmacists who are registered and entitled to practice.

Inclusion

- Pharmacists who provide services for patients
- Pharmacists for whom their pharmacy education is a prerequisite for the execution of the job
- Pharmacists for whom their pharmacy education is NOT a prerequisite for the execution of the job
- Pharmacists licensed to practice but who are not economically active (e.g. unemployed or retired)
- Pharmacists working abroad

Note: The number should be at the end of the calendar year.

Sources and Methods

Australia

Source of data:

- 2013 onwards: **Department of Health (DoH)**. NHWDS Allied Health Practitioners Data. Data request. Also available at <http://hwd.health.gov.au/>. Data are as at the end of the re-registration period for the profession in the reference year.
- 2011-2012: **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2013**. Allied health workforce 2012. National health workforce series no. 5. Cat. No. HWL 51. Canberra: AIHW. Also available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/>.
- Up to 1999: **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2003**. Pharmacy labour force to 2001. National Health Labour Force Series 25. Cat. no. HWL 25. Canberra: AIHW (and previous issues). Also available at www.aihw.gov.au (C:\Users\barnettm\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\2L3EJXSO\ptmp18063\www.aihw.gov.au).

Coverage:

- From 2011, data regarding pharmacists licensed to practice include those who are registered with the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA), in conjunction with the AHPRA, to practice in the pharmacy profession.
- Up to 1999, data are based on annual re-registrations.

Break in time series:

- From 2011, data are based on estimates derived from the National Health Workforce Data Set (NHWDS). The data set contains information on the demographic and employment characteristics of allied health practitioners registered in Australia. Data are collected via registration forms and a survey instrument administered by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, in conjunction with the annual registration renewal process for pharmacists. Data prior to 2011 were supplied based on data from the now superseded state and territory pharmacy boards and councils. Comparison of 2011 and later data with data prior to 2011 should be made with caution.

- From 2013 the NHWDS is held by the Department of Health and the data has minor differences from the previous AIHW holdings due to the method of imputation for survey non-response and enhanced geocoding methods.

Austria

Data not available.

Belgium

Source of data: **SPF Santé publique, sécurité de la chaîne alimentaire et de l'environnement**, DG2 Soins de Santé primaires et gestion de crises - FOD Volksgezondheid, Veiligheid van de Voedselketen en Leefmilieu DG2 Basisgezondheidszorg en Crisisbeheer. Cellule Planification des professionnels de santé - Cel planning Gezondheidsberoepen. Base de données fédérale des professionnels de soins de santé - Federale databank van de beoefenaars van de gezondheidszorgberoepen.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: Complete.

Canada

Source of data:

- 2009-2023: Health Workforce Database, **Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)**, with the exception of Quebec for which data are from the **National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA)**.

- 2007 & 2008 Manitoba data was from NAPRA.

- 2014 New Brunswick data was from NAPRA.

- 2014 and 2016-2020 Yukon data was from NAPRA.

- 2020 data for Prince Edward Island is from NAPRA.

- 2017-2021 data for Nunavut from NAPRA.

- For more information about data collection and comparability as well as notes specific to individual provinces and territories, refer to *Pharmacists in Canada, 2023* — Methodology Notes on CIHI's website: *Pharmacists in Canada, 2023* — Methodology Notes

(<https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/pharmacists-in-canada-2023-meth-notes-en.pdf>).

Reference period: The number is as of October 1 of given year for data from the Health Workforce Database at CIHI and January 1 of the following year for - data from NAPRA.

Coverage:

- Data include all Primary registrations with the pharmacist regulatory authorities in Canada.

- Data exclude all Secondary registrations registered with the pharmacist regulatory authorities in Canada.

- Information prior to 2009 is not available.

- Starting in 2023, CIHI revised its methodology for imputing missing values in data for 2023 and subsequent years. This change may have an impact on the trends. As a result, comparisons with data for previous years should be made with caution. .

Chile

Source of data: **Ministry of Health** using the as original source the National Registry of Individual Health Providers from the **Health Superintendence** (www.superdesalud.cl), which was created by a law-ranking decree of November 2008, progressively installed since 2009, and is henceforth used. Its creation and maintenance are in charge of the Health Superintendence.

- The inscription in the Register has been progressive, and the changes in the figures that can be observed since 2010 are principally due to its progressive extension. The prevision was that this effect remains at least until the end of 2013.

Coverage: Nationwide.

- Data include both public and private sectors' employed pharmacists.

- The difference between 2010 and 2013 figures is due both to the incorporation in the Registry of the new graduates in 2010-2013 and to the extensibility of the Registry. Since 2014, it could be considered that the extensibility of the Registry effect on the tendency is lower than in the previous period.

Colombia

Data not available.

Costa Rica

Data not available.

Czechia

Data not available.

Denmark

Source of data: **The Danish Health Data Authority**, Labour Register for Health Personnel.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage:1980-2022

Estonia

Source of data: Registry of Pharmacists, **Health Care Board**.

Reference period: January of the following year.

Coverage:

- The number of licensed pharmacists covers overall potential, not persons by the last obtained speciality.
- Register of dispensing chemists and pharmacists was introduced in July 2005. Previously, only responsible pharmacists were registered at National Agency of Medicines, not all of them. The data for 2007 present the number of registered persons by end-year of the first year.

Finland

Source of data: **VALVIRA. National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health**. Register on Qualified Health Care Personnel.

Reference period: At the end of the calendar year.

Coverage: Individuals licensed to practice as pharmacists, who are presumed to live in Finland. These include everyone with known permanent residency in Finland and non-Finnish nationals for whom there is no information on residency. As any acquired licenses do not expire, even upon retirement, this data includes only individuals under the age of 65 to better reflect the actually available work force.

France

Data not available.

Germany

Source of data: **Federal Union of German Associations of Pharmacists**, Pharmacy and staff statistics 2023; <http://www.abda.de> or <http://www.gbe-bund.de>.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage:

- Included are all practising and non-practising pharmacists licensed to practice (head-count data).
- Included are practising pharmacists working in a public or hospital pharmacy, pharmacists working in administration, research and industry positions, pharmacists working abroad and unemployed and retired pharmacists (head-count data).
- The number of registered pharmacists excludes students who have not yet graduated.

- Data available from 2006 onwards.

Greece

Data not available.

Hungary

Source of data:

- Up to 2006: **Hungarian Chamber of Pharmacy** (MGYK in Hungarian) www.mgyk.hu.
- From 2007 until 2014: **Office of Health Care Authorisation and Administrative Procedures** (EEKH in Hungarian) www.eekh.hu, Basic register.
- From 2015 to 2016, **Health Registration and Training Center** (ENKK in Hungarian) www.enkk.hu, Basic register.
- From 2017, **National Healthcare Service Center** (ÁEEK in Hungarian) www.enkk.hu, Basic register.
- From 2021, **National Directorate General for Hospitals** (OKFÓ in Hungarian) www.okfo.gov.hu, Basic register.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: According to the latest qualification acquired.

Break in time series:

Break in 2007, when the Office of Health Authorization and Administrative Procedures took over the maintenance of registration from the Ministry of Health. The notable increase in the number of pharmacists licensed to practice in 2007 resulted from a data revision undertaken during the handover of the registry administration.

Note: The data source of pharmacists licenced to practice is the Basic (Diploma) Register, not the Operational Registry.

The basic register is a national register that includes all professionals having a healthcare qualification obtained in Hungary or obtained abroad and recognised in Hungary, regardless of whether they have a valid operational registration to pursue healthcare activities or not. There are two cases of the deletion from the register: if the professional dies or if the diploma turns out to be false.

Iceland

Source of data:

- From 2016 onwards: **The Directorate of Health**, Register of Licenced Health Care Professionals.

Ireland

Source of data: **Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland** (<https://www.thepsi.ie/gns/home.aspx>).

Reference period: Figures refer to as at end of December.

Coverage:

- Figures refer to all persons on the register of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. They may include pharmacists not in activity.
- The following are included; pharmacists employed in community pharmacies, pharmacists employed in the pharmaceutical industry, pharmacists employed in medical research, pharmacists employed in firms or public bodies in exercise of their profession, pharmacists employed in public and private hospitals, foreign pharmacists registered in Ireland and some Irish pharmacists living/working abroad.

Israel

Source of data: The data are based on the Pharmacists Licensed Registry maintained by the Medical Professions Division and the Health Information Division in the **Ministry of Health**, the demographic information is periodically updated from the Population Registry at the Ministry of Interior.

Reference period: End of the year.

Coverage: The data include all licensed pharmacists. The data include only pharmacists with valid licenses at the end of each reference year.

Note: The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

Italy

Source of data:

- Until 2020: **FOFI** (National Federation of pharmacists). www.fofi.it.
(<http://www.istat.it/it/archivio/8263>)- Since 2021: **ISTAT** Integrated Data System on Health Personnel.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage: All pharmacists licensed to practice.

Deviation from the definition: None.

Estimation method: None.

Break in time series: 2021: due to changes in data source.

Japan

Data not available.

Korea

Source of data: **Ministry of Health and Welfare**, Yearbook of Health and Welfare Statistics.

Coverage: Data match the definition.

- Data include Korean oriental medicine pharmacists from 2004 onwards.

Break in time series: 2004. In 2020, the time series has been revised since 2004, including Korean oriental medicine pharmacists.

Latvia

Source of data:

- 2007-2008 and from 2013 onwards: Pharmacist and pharmacist assistant register , under direct jurisdiction of **Pharmacists' Society of Latvia**.

- Up to 2006 and 2009-2012: **State Agency of Medicines**, report "Summary on operation of pharmacies, medicine wholesales enterprises and medicines production enterprises".

Reference period: 31 December.

Coverage:

- Persons who have graduated completed studies in pharmacology at university level and who work in cies, medicine wholesales enterprises, in medicines production enterprises or retired.

- From 2009: New normative acts were introduced, and compulsory registration is required only for pharmacists working in pharmacies. Therefore, not all graduated pharmacists received a license to practice.

- From 2014 – pharmacists registered in the register.

Break in time series:

- 2007, 2009, and 2013: Change in data source.

Lithuania

Source of data: Since 2004 **State Medicines Control Agency**, Register of licenses. Report “Health Statistics of Lithuania” available from <https://www.hi.lt/sveikatos-statistikos-leidiniai/#--lietuvos-sveikatos-statistika>. Available on Official Statistics Portal of Statistics Lithuania <http://osp.stat.gov.lt/en>.

Reference period: 31st December.

Break in series: 2007 - the new Law of Pharmacy demanded that administrators of pharmacies have pharmacist license, this increased the number of pharmacists licensed to practice.

Luxembourg

Source of data: **Ministère de la Santé**. Register of doctors and health professionals.

Reference period: 31st December.

Mexico

Data not available.

Netherlands

Source of data: **Social Statistical Database of Statistics Netherlands, BIG Register** (official register of health care professionals).

Reference period: The last Friday before Christmas.

Coverage: Refers to pharmacists registered and living in the Netherlands (pharmacists licensed to practice exclude pharmacists living abroad).

Break in time series:

- From 2017 onwards: the license register required re-registration for pharmacists. The register required pharmacists to have been practising with a certain minimum amount working hours in the last 5 years in their professional field. The re-registration has led to a decrease in the numbers published so far.
- Up to 2016, figures have been rounded to 5.
- 2023 : Re-registration effect. Since 2017, dentists and pharmacists are obliged to re-register. The requirement is that they have been practising in the past 5 years.

New Zealand

Source of data:

- Data up to 2004: **Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand**.
- Data from 2005: **Pharmacy Council**.
- **Workforce Demographics 2024** document available at:
<https://pharmacycouncil.org.nz/2024-workforce-demographic-report/>
- The Register of the Pharmacy Council sets out numbers for practising pharmacists, non-practising pharmacists and interns for the period 2005-2024.
- Pharmacists licensed to practice = Pharmacy Council category for 'Practising Pharmacists' + 'Non-Practising Pharmacists'('Interns' are not included).
- Pharmacists currently practising in the community and in hospitals, in addition to pharmacists working in administration, teaching, research etc., require an annual practicing certificate and are included in the NZ register category for 'Practising Pharmacists'.
- Pharmacists on the Non-Practising Register include those giving the following reasons for not practising (as at 30 June 2024): Overseas - practising, overseas - not practising, parenting/maternity leave, other, working in a non-health role, retired, working in another health profession, full-time study, seeking employment as a pharmacist, or seeking employment in a non-pharmacy profession. This could in some instances include licensed pharmacists working in administration, research and other posts and pharmacists working in the pharmaceutical industry, if they choose to be on the Non-Practising register.

Break in time series:

- 2005. Prior to September 2004, pharmacists simply paid a fee to be on the register, and they were not divided into practising and non-practising. The register was maintained by the Pharmaceutical Society. With the introduction of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA), the Pharmacy Council was appointed to manage the registration of pharmacists, and the register was split into two sections - practising and non-practising.
- 2015. From 2015, the number of non-practising pharmacists includes those that did not apply for a practising certificate or apply to move or remain as non-practising at renewal time (due 1 April each year). In previous years these individuals would not have been recorded as non-practising. Any individual who did not apply to renew their status before November 2015 was removed from the non-practising register (after being contacted first), except for a few exceptions. As the data reflect the number as at 30 June 2015, these individuals who did not apply to renew had not been removed yet. This has resulted in an artificial increase in the number of pharmacists recorded as non-practising (around 10%).

Norway

Source of data: **Statistics Norway**; Statistics on health-care personnel. Administrative registers. See http://www.ssb.no/hesospers_en/.

Reference period: 3rd week of November.

Coverage: The figures provided cover all registered pharmacists.

Break in time series: 2015.

- As from 2015, the register-based employment statistics will be based on a new data source for employees. Until the end of 2014, the main data source was The Central Register on Employers and Employees (EE register), produced by the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Organisation (NAV). In 2015, this reporting to NAV was coordinated with the reporting of earnings and personnel data to the Tax Administration and Statistics Norway. This common reporting system is called “a-ordningen” (the a-system).

Poland

Source of data: **Ministry of Health**. Register of the Polish ceutical Chamber.

Reference period: 31st December.

Portugal

Source of data: Statistics Portugal, Health personnel statistics

- Since 1988: Portuguese Pharmaceutical Society;

- 1986-1987: General Directorate of Pharmacist Affairs;

- 1980-1985: Trade Union.

Reference period: 31st December.

Coverage:

- Data reflect the number of all pharmacists registered at the Portuguese Pharmaceutical Society.

Slovak Republic

Data not available.

Slovenia

Data not available.

Spain

Source of data: **National Statistics Institute (INE)** from the **Register of Pharmacists Council**.

https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176781&menu=ultiDatos&idp=1254735573175.

Reference period: Data as of December 31.

Sweden

Source of data: **National Board of Health and Welfare**, LOVA-register.

Reference period: 1st November.

Coverage:

- Pharmacists include all persons with a Swedish pharmacist license and prescriptionists employed within the retail pharmacy sector.

- Non-retired personnel.

- Full coverage.

Deviation from the definition:

- Prescriptionists (with a 3-year university degree) are included. This category makes up about 60 % of all pharmacists.

Switzerland

Data not available.

Türkiye

Data not available.

United Kingdom

Data not available.

United States

Data not available.

NON-OECD ECONOMIES

Bulgaria

Data not available.

Croatia

Source of data: Croatian Chamber of Pharmacists.

Reference period: Status on December 31st.

Cyprus

Data not available.

Romania

Source of data: **College of the Pharmacists** in Romania.

Reference period: data as of 31st December.

Coverage: The data cover public and private sector. Since 2021 data is still under a quality check.

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